

strongest allies, a man who himself is in deep sympathy and mourning for this Nation, in a joint meeting. He is in the Chamber.

RECESS

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess for 3 minutes so that the Prime Minister of Australia may be greeted.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:10 a.m., recessed and reassembled at 11:13 a.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. NELSON of Florida).

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Virginia is recognized for up to 10 minutes.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, my fellow Members of the Senate, this is a very sad day as we witness all of the implications and tragedies and lives lost from yesterday's dastardly terrorist attacks on the United States.

Yesterday's attacks were attacks not just on the United States and our particular Commonwealth of Virginia or State of New York, it is an attack on freedom-loving people and everything we stand for as a unique and great nation.

On Monday afternoon, Senator BOXER and I were ready to introduce a resolution condemning the suicide bombings in the Middle East. We would have introduced that resolution on Monday, but wanted to include another clause recognizing the attacks in Israel on Sunday. We now see with great shock and horror, that the United States is obviously not impervious to these suicide bombings and such attacks.

What we need to do now is coalesce, coalesce as a people with our shared beliefs, coalesce to comfort those who have lost loved ones and then also determine where we need to go to move forward to try to prevent such acts from occurring in the future. Our goal and focus right now must be on the rescue, hoping there are those who are still alive. Secondly, we need to find as many details and information as to how our security was breached so as to hopefully prevent it in the future. And thirdly of course, hold those who are responsible accountable and bring them to justice.

We are hearing stories just in the first day of great heroes. Heroes in New York. People who knew that the building was going to collapse, but nevertheless stayed there trying to usher people out. On C-SPAN this morning, one of those who was just a volunteer helper knew what was going on, where those who were emergency and federal FBI agents were as well, knowing that the building was going to collapse, staying there knowing those were the last minutes of their life trying to save people.

The same was happening in Virginia where we have lost many lives, untold numbers, as of yet, at the Pentagon as well as the passengers on flight 77 flying from Dulles, VA, that was hijacked and crashed into the Pentagon.

There are great stories of bravery, with people going above and beyond what is expected, and that should give us comfort as a nation. This tragedy has affected many lives, and we still don't know how many lives. It will probably take a week if not weeks to determine how many lives have been lost. Even in the small neighborhood where we live, where my daughter goes to middle school, children were crying because their parents work at the Pentagon. Others work at Fort Belvoir and there was worry that Fort Belvoir was being hit. There's only maybe a couple of dozen houses in our development, but a youngster—who came by our house to get to know my children, his father was on Flight 77.

So, as the days go forward, we are all going to be learning these stories of innocent people whose lives have been lost and the families that will forever be scarred with the loss of that loved one. Our thoughts and prayers must be with those families. Whether they're in New York or people who are from Connecticut or New Jersey, people from Virginia, here in the D.C. area, I'm sure there are folks from Maryland and the District, clearly people from Massachusetts were on the hijacked flight from Boston. Clearly a lot of people from California, since the destination of all of those flights was to be California.

This is truly a day that will live in infamy. History will record these as the most violent, insane, cowardly acts that have ever been perpetrated on our homeland in the United States of America. We need to be united, coalesced as Americans, but also with our allies in our resolve, our resolve to pursue these cowardly conspirators who perpetrated these murderous acts.

In our response to justice, we need to be sure, we need to be swift, and we need to be severe. In my view, we have allowed terrorism to go on too long, thinking that we could be immune from it. But nevertheless, we need to recognize that we're going to have to wage warfare.

These people have struck against the symbol of American strength and power. They are not, though, going to be able to weaken the will of the people of the United States. We will stay united, defending our interests and our principles. We will also stick together, not just as Virginians and New Yorkers, but as Americans aiding and helping the families who have lost loved ones in whatever they can do.

The senior Senator from Virginia, JOHN WARNER, and I will work together to make sure that for those Federal employees that the Government is doing all they can as well as for the civilian employees. And it is not just as Virginians. I know that the Presiding

Officer, sitting there from Florida, cares just as much as anybody else does.

And so we are all going to stick together in that regard. We do need to learn from this, though. And as we learn, we must make sure that as we learn the facts, we do not allow these attacks to succeed in tempting us in any way to diminish what makes us a great nation. And what makes us a great nation is that this is a country that understands that people have God-given rights and liberties. And we cannot—in our efforts to bring justice—diminish those liberties.

Clearly, this is not a simple, normal criminal case. This is an act of war, and those rules apply. But at home and domestically, we need to make sure that we are not tempted to abrogate any civil rights such as habeas corpus or protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, or the freedom of expression and peaceable assembly, freedom of religion. And just because somebody may come from an ethnic background, that means nothing. They are American citizens. And so let's make sure that in our anger and in our efforts to bring justice, we remember our basic foundational civil liberties and do not abrogate them.

We are a nation of laws, of good-hearted people, of loving people. And so I would say in closing, Mr. President, let's make sure we pray for and comfort those who have lost loved ones.

Let's get the facts, move swiftly and properly. But most importantly, as Americans, let's stay strong. Let's stay resolved, and let's keep moving forward. Because, indeed, all the world is watching, not just the Senate; they are watching the United States and Americans. What will their response be? Let's keep moving forward. We are the beacon for freedom-loving people in the world, sticking together we will persevere. We will bring justice. And we will come out safer and stronger in the end.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware, the manager of the resolution.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I yield myself up to 10 minutes to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I cannot think of any other legislative body in the world where we would hear the speech we just heard by the junior Senator from Virginia, where his heart is aching, many in his constituency have died. Part of the building in his State is still burning.

In the ultimate American way, he called at the end of his speech for not abrogating the basic cherished liberties that this Nation has. I doubt whether one would hear that in any other assembly in the world after such an attack, and I compliment him for it.

My heart and my sympathy go out to our colleagues from New York and Virginia in particular, but all those who